

I am shocked and outraged by Sinclair Broadcasting's blatant misuse of the public airways. The decision to force their stations to air an anti-John Kerry documentary days before the election is an example of willful one-sided accusations without equal, immediate or even timely opportunity for the attacked to respond. This is a clear violation of FCC requirements. The FCC must act immediately with meaningful repercussions that will set an example not only for Sinclair but all media giants who dare act against the law and the central tenets of our democracy.

This is also an example of the dangers of media consolidation. Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.